

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 6.2.2020

Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
 - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
 - Twitter: www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/
 - Instagram: www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/
 - General email: info@riseandresist.org
 - Press email: media@riseandresist.org
 - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting [click here](#)
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Notes - Alexandra **Facilitators** - Livvie, Sandy, and Cherie **ASL Signer** - Elizabeth

The meeting started at 7:05 to give people time to holler and bang pots.

UPCOMING ACTIONS SUMMARY

- **@JusticeforGeorgenyc** lists all march locations for every day, each borough, each neighborhood related to murder of George Floyd and many more.
- **Small action: tomorrow June 3 at 12 noon: Green Market at Union Square. Meet at north end of Union Square by Barnes and Noble**
- **Contact Robert C if you are interested in a range of Post Office actions, including stickers (not on PO property) rcroon@gmail.com**
 - **6/16/20 major action by postal workers. They want us to join.**
- Contact **Donna donnagould@earthlink.net** if you want to help take COVID BEHIND BARS = DEATH to the streets
- **Trump is going to be at West Point Saturday June 13. Join us for a socially distanced Vigil for Democracy Saturday June 13, noon to 1 pm, on the West Point Highway (Just south of Thayer Gate, public land).**
- **TRUMP LIES PEOPLE DIE to Sheridan Square/Stonewall Inn for Pride Day, Sunday June 28.**

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to talking about the protests against the murder of George Floyd and police violence.

- There have already been three Actions Meetings to address police violence including the murder of George Floyd

- Actions Committee is holding in mind people who need to be extra careful, and wants to discuss ways of staying safe and socially distant
 - Union Square Action
- Jay discussed recent action: “something has broken” culturally, nationally.
 - 20k people at Foley Square
 - Many people heading up the East side afterward
 - RaR needs to be present;
 - Certainly people who feel it is unsafe should not
- Jackie R: cautious at first b/c health concerns. “a bit of a convert”.
 - People invited to stay in spaces that are engaged, but not as risky.
 - It is possible to step back.
 - Very exciting and exhilarating
- Elka:
 - Union Square with banner “TAKE YOUR KNEE OFF HIS NECK;” Stood quietly; invited to join the march; instead stayed with our banner.
 - Today, June 2; Foley Square. 1 pm to 6 pm
 - Decided to stay just for the vigil; we were on the steps, and everyone could see us. Numerous photographs.
 - We stepped back as the whole march passed by us.
 - So important for RaR to be there.
 - “Resign DeBlasio” sign should have been bigger.
 - Protest was peaceful; as it got later it got more crowded
 - Recommendations:
 - we need a new dedicated team in Comms to amplify our message on all social media platforms, and deal with such things as last minute location changes
 - We need people to stay at home, to feed back to protestors what is going on. Elka did this for the Angie Kearsse action, which was helpful.
 - **@JusticeforGeorgenyc** lists all march locations for every day, each borough, each hood
- Jennifer B: also a convert to marching safely.
 - Described safe march where protestors begging police to take a knee
 - Recommends writing a statement in advance that explains what we are doing and why.
- Bonnie: discussed concerns about marching and subways.
 - Many local marches and actions popping up.
- Eve: Ask the city to defund the police,
 - instructions: <https://twitter.com/AEOsworth/status/1267924836510085120>
- Mark H asked about the agent provocateurs
 - Elka: kids during the day are very committed to stopping unsafe, destructive behavior

- o Eve: people are following police scanners, and provide heads up about what is going down
- o Jay: went out to see what is going on: rioters and looters overnight. We need to be very careful to not demonize them; can be all sorts of people: outsiders, anarchists, can also be New Yorkers who are fed up, dealing with extraordinary levels of oppression for many years. Last major civil rights law: Fair Housing Act of 1968. Riots happen when our society is broken, and is not protecting our citizens. Blame should be at feet of every elected official in both parties who have not acted on behalf of people
- Mary H: spontaneous marches Black Lives Matter all over the place.
 - o Do it locally. Have you and your neighbors come out at 6 pm spontaneously
 - o Choose a landmark and meet there.
 - o Has seen people whirling cones, being provocative. Organizers are getting better at containing them.
- Susan Lee: lives near Soho and has seen damage.
 - o System has convinced everyone that they should shop at Gucci's. Kids going to Chanel in an organized way.
 - o Our messaging is very important: what our goals are.
- Ivy: Little Italy has been extremely vandalized every night, including damage to small businesses.
 - o Not judging what actions are going on,
 - o Supers are armed now.
 - o There is a ton of poverty around here. We have to do economic work as well.
 - o All the protests have been peaceful; we need to be able to talk about this.
- Cherie: we need to hold in mind the economic situations, and what is happening to small businesses
- Andy: Everyone is hearing about the protests precisely because they are not peaceful or well organized.
 - o The tactics are bringing them to the news.
 - o Young black activists attacking police property, a cop van;
 - o discussion of looting is a distraction from the murder of George Floyd and other black people.
 - o Not interested in property, capital.
- Jamie: NYPD is obsessed with protecting property. If you attack property, they will counterattack anyone who is there, not the people who did it. RaR is not about destruction to property.
- What do we want to do organizationally?
 - o The banner should not be left idle, and we can work with all kinds of needs among the activists.
 - o Banner can be sent to the next action.

- o Does the group want Actions to come up with actions? Should we have our own actions, or fold into others?
- Stu: When I am asked about looting, I reply the police should be condemned for murder, not focus on looting
- Mike: good protestors and bad protestors is a false equation: focus on powers that be.
 - o Framing on the media - violence goes to criminality.
 - o LA Kauffman: battling with the police is a high cost strategy.
 - o Strength of a non-violent strategy.
 - o Messages: Wall street has been looting people for centuries. Message of the Pandemic: people are expendable. Keep the focus.
 - o Maybe DeBlasio is bad, but Cuomo is worse: marshalls, Trump: the military.
- Jeremiah: says hi; looting, and focus on looting is a distraction
- Jackie Orr: appreciation of RaR:
 - o We need conversations over the next few weeks when we may face a militarized situation.
 - o What might we do when things really start to close down?
 - o We need dedicated Comms team; need anchor groups inside to be in constant communication with folks in the street; writing a statement for the website/FB; emphasizing Defund the Police;
 - o planning for militarized shut-down of protests, Where do these suggestions go?
- Jenny H: Yes, we need to talk about what does one do when protest is not possible?
 - o Addressed issue of older people and risk taking; There is a place for everyone here
 - We can be on the streets: on our street corners.
 - o Get the message out: we will not lay down in front of what is going on. We know where we are coming from. We know we are non-violent.
 - o We don't have to have perfect messaging.
- Heather: keep showing up and marching.
 - o Take out smaller banners; small actions. Get people involved.
 - o Then, when things get shut down we can get a rhythm going.
- Livvie: We need to be inclusive, persistent.
- Donna: important to be creative.
- Jay: Troubled by shift from 11 to 8 with the new curfew.
 - o Old slogan of the cops: we own the night. Who watches the watchmen
 - o Homeless people: will the police really exempt young black men who are homeless?
 - o Concerned about looters who are attacked for damaging property
- Elka: Concluding words for this part of the meeting.

- o The anger that white people express needs to be moderated.
- o Black people are distinguishing between small black owned businesses and mega businesses.
- o Andrew Kearsse Act action: huge video call. Goal to pass Kearsse/Garner law. Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten Gillibrand, Ayanna Presley were there. Eric Garner's mother was there.
- o We can be at home and show up.
- o Catasia Williams has taken over from Hawk Newsome. 18 years old. Brilliant young organizer.
- o What is ICE doing right now? What are we doing? Should we do an ICE watch? All these things are happening at the same time. Work with our allies who are hurting, who will be deported.

Post Office Group: Upcoming Actions

- Robert: We saw a video, accompanied by "Hey Mr. Postman".
- Discussion about how to address copyright issues. Infringement? Not? How to reach a company that owns rights to that song. Mary <https://www.Collective.Agency/> make a video.
 - o Dann reported that multiple people have used that song on Youtube, and have not been shut down.
- Email Robert if you want to distribute stickers: rcroon@gmail.com
 - o Do not put stickers on mailboxes or PO property, as that makes more work for postal workers.
 - o 1000 postcards: to 50 senators so they get 20 each.
- We will not do Weds action in Brooklyn cos tone deaf following current climate after murder of George Floyd.
 - o Web page is coming up, Instagram, Twitter

6/16/ major action by postal workers. They want us to join.

RaR voted to release \$300 to purchase postcards

- o \$200 requested Voted to put a widget on the website which will draw tweets and Instagram posts from people all over the country who want to post their chalking actions. Dann: better use of money is to pay for advertising.

Donna: COVID BEHIND BARS = DEATH

- o **RaR endorsed contributing \$350 for a banner, with 6 feet apart markers? Demo to require masks.**
 - o Contact Donna donnagould@earthlink.net if you want to help take it out to the streets

Jamie: TRUMP LIES PEOPLE DIE banner will be taken out to Sheridan Square and Stonewall Inn to mark Pride Day Sunday, June 28

- o Contact Jamie and Ray (5 or 6 person action). We may take GET YOUR KNEE OFF HIS NECK banner too.
- o Jamie's email: bauwau2u@gmail.com

West Point Action

- Anne Summers reported early as she had to leave: June 13 trump is coming to West Point; as of 6/1/20, candidates are scheduled to be in quarantine for 14 days;
 - o protests are approved by the Mayor and Town Council.
 - o annesumers@gmail.com
 - o See below for further discussion about RaR plans for WestPoint action.
- Ken: News article on West Point. There was nobody up there on the weekend. Doubts that cadets were tested. Ken walked all over the grounds to see if there could be a socially distant action.
- Jay: Cadets arrived on June 1 and will be quarantined.
- Ken will check the area to see if cadets are in residence.
- Judith: from the NYTimes: At least 15 of the graduating cadets who returned to West Point ahead of President Trump's commencement speech in June tested positive for the coronavirus, according to a U.S. Army spokeswoman
- From Jay: **"Trump is going to be at West Point Saturday June 13. Join us for a socially distanced Vigil for Democracy Saturday June 13, noon to 1 pm, on the West Point Highway (Just south of Thayer Gate) (public land).** Masked. 10 feet apart. On the sidewalk, going south along the highway. We'll be socially distanced, and masked. Park legally please and do not block traffic or the sidewalk. I have 100 of each of these posters, or make your own signs. Please share. Please invite friends. (Btw Trump will probably not come up the Highway; I expect he will helicopter in. We are there for press & photographers.) (There won't be big crowds. Only 1,000 West Point cadets will be there, quarantined in base for 14 days to be a backdrop for trump's grandstanding— only the senior cadets will be there, no other classmates and no family or friends are allowed to attend) The cadets are under military orders to attend. Not optional. Join us! Use our signs, or Make a cool sign — and post it here to give us ideas"

Finance

Susan: \$12,800 in the bank. This is a decrease of \$1000 from 5 weeks ago. Does not include the \$10,000 gift which is not yet in receipt.

Non RaR actions:

- Elka: Can we have a group of volunteers to follow up on Andrew Kearsse actions?
- Jackie: Reclaim Pride March: major pivot; there may be a real march on the streets. Jackie will have more info after the RCP meeting.
- Jay: sole focus of the march will be Black Lives Matter, racial justice, anti-Black racism
- Jamie: Does Elka want to do the banner at noon tomorrow at Union Square greenmarket; DeBlasio Resign sign needed